

The Mexican Communist Party

(By Linn A. E. Gale).

The Communist Party of Mexico is the answer of the red-blooded, class-conscious Reds of Mexico to the high-handed acts of the machine that controlled the recent convention of the Mexican Socialist Party in the interest of Samuel Gompers and the American Federation of Labor.

The Communist Party was born the day the Socialist convention closed, the anti-Gompers and Left Wing element staying in the convention to the very last in the vain hope that they might at the eleventh hour wrest control from Luis N. Morones, secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor and tool of Gompers. But defeat after defeat taught them that they could hope for no genuinely revolutionary action from the carefully manipulated convention and when they left the hall of the Mexico City local, where the convention was held, they went to another hall to effect provisional organization of the Communist Party.

The Socialist convention lasted ten days and did practically nothing. A hot fight developed the second day when Morones offered himself as a delegate with credentials from some alleged Radical group that nobody had ever heard of before. Vigorous speeches by International Secretary Adolfo Santibanez, National Secretary F. C. Lopez and myself. Morones protested melodramatically that he was a true Socialist with the interests of the Mexican workers at heart and possessed legitimate credentials which should be recognized. A vote was taken by roll call and resulted in a tie. A second ballot resulted in the same way and then Roy, who had not voted before, cast the deciding vote in favor of seating Morones, amid a furor among the delegates.

From that time, Morones was in the saddle. Roy made a pretense of being against him, claiming he voted to seat Morones in the interests of "party

harmony," but it soon became evident that Roy and Seaman were helping Morones carry out his plans. Elaborate discussions over inconsequential details were conducted in order to distract attention away from essentials. The original call for the convention, drafted by Roy, specified that delegates should be elected to the Second International. I spoke in strong terms about this and finally, although reluctantly, a clause endorsing the Third International was adopted. However, this will cut little figure in view of the reactionary character of the influences dominating the convention and the Executive and National Committees. When these committees were named, it was found that three-fourths of the members were Morones men. Morones and his companion delegate, Samuel Yudico, wisely kept off the committees personally and engineered the election of their friends instead. A platform was adopted which was neither very good nor very bad, per se, but under the circumstances must be dismissed as mere camouflage to cover up the true character of the convention.

An unwavering and consistent opponent of Morones, Seaman and Roy, throughout the convention was Adolfo Santibanez, International Secretary of the Party, and Santibanez paid for it by being ousted from office and denied a seat in either the Executive or National Committee, although he is the virtual founder of the party in Mexico, having organized the first Socialist local in the country 15 years ago. However, the Socialist Party's loss was the Communist Party's gain as Santibanez became our International Secretary.

The following provisional officers of the Communist Party have been named and will serve until the national convention in November. International Secretary, Adolfo Santibanez; national secretary, Enrique H. Arce; treasurer, Geo. Berrida; execu-

tive committee, Santibanez, Arce, Barrera, Fulgencio C. Luna, C. F. Tabler and myself. The provisional platform emphatically endorses the Third International and while approving of both industrial and political action when in line with the class struggle recommends industrial action as of major importance and urges all members to affiliate with the I. W. W. The Mexico City Socialist Local has split and a Communist Local been organized but in many cities, the Socialist Locals and other Radical groups are leaving the Socialists to join the Communist Party.

The new party is assured of generous support as the Mexican workers are strongly against Gompers and it takes little argument to convince them that they should support the party which opposes Gompers.

The address of the Communist Party is P. O. Box 985, Mexico City, and communications from the United States should be addressed to International Secretary Adolfo Santibanez, at that box. The party wishes to get in touch with the comrades in the United States to the fullest extent possible and invites them to correspond with it, especially regarding ways and means of co-operation in the event of intervention. Considerable literature on the subject of intervention has been published and the party has definite and carefully developed plan in case American troops again enter Mexico. I. W. W. secretaries should also write the party as it wishes to co-operate in every feasible way in the organization of I. W. W. unions in Mexico.

In Mexico, as in the United States, the split will be beneficial rather than detrimental. There can be, as Comrade Farina says, no real union that is not a union in fundamentals. Any other kind of a union is a source of weakness, not of strength. And the sooner such a combination is broken, the better.